



River Basin also contains three animals on the Endangered Species List—the yellow lampmussel and Savannah lilliput, both freshwater mussels, and the West Indian manatee, a visitor to coastal estuaries.

Water quality in the Lumber River Basin is generally good. Growth in human population and animal farms, however, has been significant. The number of people in the basin is expected to increase 30 percent by 2020.

For now, the water quality in the basin's streams and rivers is good enough to support swimming and boating as well as shellfish harvesting in some estuary areas. There are some fish species, however, that have been contaminated by mercury. Power plant and incinerator emissions are important sources of this pollutant. Certain household and medical wastes also contain mercury. State officials advise limited consumption of largemouth bass, chain pickerel and bowfin throughout the basin because of high levels of mercury in their flesh.

Another concern in the basin is that many shellfishing areas in coastal rivers are closed due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. This kind of bacteria indicates contamination from animal, and possibly human, waste. Runoff from animal lots and outdated or malfunctioning septic systems are potential sources of contamination.

Since some of these pollution sources involve leaked household chemicals and household solid waste, the actions of each individual in the basin can make a difference. The residents of the Lumber River Basin have the opportunity to protect their waters as the region grows. They are learning valuable lessons from other river basins that are now grappling with polluted wastewater and development issues. Many local citizens are working together to preserve and protect the waters of the Lumber River Basin. See the list on the back of this brochure.

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LUMBER RIVER BASIN

You may have noticed Lumber River Basin signs posted along highways. These were created through a partnership between the Office of Environmental Education and the N.C. Department of Transportation with funding from the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program. Signs in each of the state's 17 river basins call attention to basin boundaries and promote stewardship of public waters.

Pitcher plants and flytraps are intriguing plants that thrive in the Green Swamp.